

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed May 6, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-5, 7-18 and 21-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Applicants' prior art in Figs. 1-5 and White. Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. The Office Action goes on to note that claims 6, 19, 20, 29, and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, without acceding to the rejection of the claims in view of Applicants' prior art and White, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-3, 5, 6, 18, 19, 28, and 29. Claim 4 has been rewritten to include the subject matter of claims 5 and 6, claim 8 has been rewritten to include the subject matter of claims 18 and 19, and claim 21 has been rewritten to include the subject matter of claims 28-29. As a result, Applicants believe that claims 4, 7, 8-17, 20-27, and 30 should now be in allowable condition.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 23, 2004.



Attorney Docket No.: S1022.80429US00
X08/06/04

Respectfully submitted,

Fraisie et al., Applicant

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